

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (currently amended) A method for preparing the treatment of a shredded cheese, the method comprising: ~~the step of~~

- (a) shredding cheese;
- (b) conveying the shredded cheese to a revolving tumbler;
- (c) adding an anticaking agent to mix with the shredded cheese in the tumbler;
- (d) spraying contacting the shredded cheese with an aqueous composition comprising, wherein the aqueous composition comprises a polyene antifungal compound natamycin and a thickening agent with spray nozzles onto the mixture of anticaking agent and shredded cheese in the tumbler, wherein the thickening agent prevents clogging of the nozzles during spraying; and
- (e) transporting the shredded cheese from the tumbler to filling equipment.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the thickening agent is a gum ~~polyene antifungal compound comprises natamycin.~~

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 [[1]], wherein the gum is a xanthan gum, a gellan gum, or a combination thereof ~~further comprising a dry powder composition comprising an anticaking agent to the shredded cheese.~~

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of natamycin in the aqueous composition is from 0.1 to 20 grams/liter ~~polyene antifungal compound comprises natamycin.~~

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[3]], wherein the concentration of the thickening agent in the aqueous composition is from 0.5 to 50 grams/liter ~~anticaking agent comprises cellulose or starch or modified starch.~~

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the anticaking agent is selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline or powdered cellulose, starch, modified starch, sodium silicate, magnesium silicate, potassium silicate, zinc silicate, silicium dioxide, kaolin, talc, potassium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, sodium phosphates, potassium phosphates, and calcium phosphates ~~thickening agent comprises a xanthan.~~

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, A processed cheese, wherein the aqueous composition is sprayed onto the mixture of anticaking agent and shredded cheese in an amount between 0.01% and 5% (v/w) ~~cheese comprises a coating comprising a polyene antifungal compound and a thickening agent.~~

8. (currently amended) The method processed cheese of claim 1 [[7]], wherein the natamycin is sprayed onto the mixture of anticaking agent and shredded cheese in a final concentration between 2 and 40 ppm ~~the thickening agent comprises a xanthan.~~

9. (currently amended) A method for preventing nozzle clogging during [[the]] treatment of shredded cheese, the method a feed, a feed or agricultural products with an aqueous composition, comprising: spraying the step of contacting the food, feed or agricultural product with an aqueous composition comprising natamycin a polyene antifungal compound and a thickening agent with spray nozzles onto shredded cheese, wherein the thickening agent prevents clogging of the nozzles during spraying.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the thickening agent is a gum ~~food, feed or agricultural product comprises a cheese cheese.~~

11. (currently amended) The method processed cheese of claim 10 [[7]], wherein the gum is a xanthan gum, a gellan gum, or a combination thereof ~~cheese comprises a shredded cheese.~~

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 [[10]], wherein the concentration of natamycin in the aqueous composition is from 0.1 to 20 grams/liter ~~cheese comprises a shredded cheese.~~

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 [[5]], wherein the concentration of the thickening agent in the aqueous composition is from 0.5 to 50 grams/liter ~~cellulose comprises a microcrystalline cellulose.~~

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the method further comprises adding a dry powder composition comprising an anticaking agent to the shredded cheese ~~A method for the treatment of a food, a feed or an agricultural product comprising the step of contacting the food, feed or agricultural product with an aqueous composition, wherein the aqueous composition comprises a polyene antifungal compound and a thickening agent.~~

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the dry powder composition is added to the shredded cheese before the shredded cheese is sprayed with the aqueous composition ~~A processed food, feed or agricultural product made by a method comprising the step of contacting the food, feed or agricultural product with an aqueous composition, wherein the aqueous composition comprises a polyene antifungal compound and a thickening agent.~~

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the anticaking agent is selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline or powdered cellulose, starch, modified starch, sodium silicate, magnesium silicate, potassium silicate, zinc silicate, silicium dioxide, kaolin, talc, potassium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, sodium phosphates, potassium phosphates, and calcium phosphates ~~processed food, feed or agricultural product of claim 14, wherein the food, feed or agricultural product comprises a cheese.~~

17. (currently amended) The method processed food, feed or agricultural product of claim 9 [[15]], wherein the aqueous composition is sprayed onto the shredded cheese in an amount between 0.01% and 5% (v/w) cheese comprises a shredded cheese.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the natamycin is sprayed onto the shredded cheese in a final concentration between 2 and 40 ppm~~A processed food, feed or agricultural product, wherein the food, feed or agricultural product comprises a coating comprising a polyene antifungal compound and a thickening agent.~~

Claims 19-23 (canceled)